officials, who sanctioned loans violating the lending rules and without taking proper security; and

(e) if so, the details of action taken against Bank officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the provisional data available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the scheduled commercial bank (nationalised banks, State Bank of India and its associate banks, private sector banks and foreign banks), as on 31st March, 2001 was Rs.61416 crores, inclusive of interest and penalty levied.

(c) As per the information available with RBI, the Gross NPAs of public sector banks towards agriculture, as on 31st March 2000, was Rs. 7450.05 crores.

(d) and (e) The banks generally examine staff accountability in loan cases that have become NPAs and take appropriate action wherever required.

Reconstitution of Board for Banking, Commercial and Financial Frauds

3140. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Banking, Commercial and Financial frauds set up in 1997 recently been reconstituted by the Chief Vigilance Commissioner;

(b) whether the Board has only powers of advisory nature and has no executive nor investigating powers; and

(c) what role did the Board play in the probe of the recent stock market and the Unit Trust of India scams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Fraud was reconstituted w.e.f. 01.07.2001.

(b) The Board's functions is only advisory in nature and it has no executive or investigating powers.

(c) No case relating to recent Stock Market/UTI Scam has been referred to the Board so far.

Memorandum of Understanding on Fiscal Reforms with States

3141. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a Fiscal Reform Memorandum of Understanding with Assam and Nagaland;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether Government are planning to sign similar Memorandum of Understanding with any other States; and

(d) if so, the names of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 1999-2000, Government of India signed a Fiscal Reform Programme Memorandum of Understanding with 13 States including Assam and Nagaland. This Fiscal Reform Programme aimed at progressively improving the balance from current revenues and reducing the revenue deficit of these States in the medium-term.

(c) and (d) Consequent upon the acceptance of the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission on its additional terms of reference on States' Fiscal Reforms and subsequent issuance of guidelines to States in this regard. States should draw a Medium Term Fiscal Restructuring Policy delineating steps to improve their revenue balances. This would form the basis of a fresh Memorandum of Understanding to be entered into between each State and Government of India.